Framework for Action 2008-2012

Northwest Territories Environment and Natural Resources

Minister's Message

I am pleased to provide the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (ENR) renewed Framework for Action 2008-2012. In 2006, ENR became a stand-alone department and charted its way forward with the Framework for Action 2006-2008. The Framework for Action 2008-2012 builds on that document and provides for the continuation of on-going actions and identifies new actions for ENR.

Focusing on the 16th Legislative Assembly's priority, "an environment that will sustain present and future generations", and the strategic initiatives of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), actions are based on managing this land, mitigating and adapting to climate change, environmental monitoring and stewardship.

Some of the biggest challenges and greatest opportunities facing ENR relate to how the land and its precious resources are used. ENR participates in and leads processes to guide land use decisions, including coordinating GNWT input into land use planning. During the next four years, ENR will provide input into the development of regional land use plans, collaborate on the development of a land use framework to guide such input, prepare a three-year Protected Areas Strategy Action Plan for 2010-2013 and work with Nunavut to implement the Thelon Management Plan. Other initiatives and actions include helping to set a GNWT Science Agenda and working with management partners and industry to identify actions to reduce impacts from resource development on boreal caribou and their habitat.

The GNWT is working proactively to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. ENR is responsible for the continued delivery of the GNWT's Greenhouse Gas Strategy. During 2008-2012, the Department will work with its energy partners to enhance the use of energy sources such as biomass, geothermal and wind to help reduce energy consumption. One major project will be the installation of wind turbines in Tuktoyaktuk.

ENR will also release a climate change impacts and adaption plan for the GNWT and establish a climate change network, which will provide communication and coordination support to organizations involved in greenhouse gas mitigation and climate change adaptation.

ENR will take a number of actions to improve and support current knowledge of the NWT environment. This knowledge is vital for the sustainable management of our land and resources. Work will continue on completing and publishing ecological land classifications for NWT ecozones. New information management systems will be developed to better track forest management, environmental assessment and compliance.

The implementation of ENR's Traditional Knowledge (TK) Framework will ensure traditional knowledge about the environment is considered in all related management actions and decisions. ENR will also work with the GNWT Interdepartmental TK Working Group to develop a plan for government-wide implementation of the Traditional Knowledge Policy.

The first NWT "State of the Environment Report" will be published to update residents and decision-makers on the state of the environment, biodiversity and natural resources.

Environmental stewardship ensures the on-going protection and wise use of our environment and natural resources. This responsibility is shared between all levels of government, co-management boards, organizations, industry and NWT residents.

The GNWT's Sustainable Development Policy promotes environmental stewardship and recognizes the need for environmental conservation as well as long-term economic prosperity in the NWT. This includes effectively dealing with past environmental legacies such as Giant Mine and the Northern Transportation Route.

During the next four years, ENR will expand waste reduction initiatives and programs. Milk containers will be added to the Beverage Container Program and financial support will be provided to businesses, municipalities and environmental groups to investigate and develop creative solutions for diverting paper products from community landfills. Actions will be taken to reduce the use of single-use retail plastic and paper bags, including the introduction of an environmental fee on these bags. The Department will also work to determine an appropriate approach to establishing a comprehensive electronics waste program in the NWT.

Best management practices will be developed to guide and encourage industry and regulatory agencies in the prevention and reduction of impacts to the environment, forests and wildlife. This will include guidelines for seismic operations and air quality best management practices for the oil and gas industry. Additional guidelines for best management practices for activities that impact forests, wildlife and habitat will also be identified.

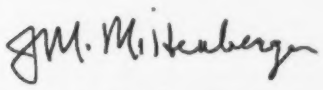
ENR will continue to work with its management partners to manage wildlife populations. Management strategies for barren-ground caribou and wood bison will be developed. The NWT Action Plan for Boreal Caribou will be completed. New wildlife legislation, including the NWT Species at Risk and the NWT Wildlife Acts, will be drafted and introduced in the Legislative Assembly. Work will begin on drafting new forest and wildland fire legislation and policy.

The Department will continue working with municipalities to develop Community Protection Plans that will minimize the risk and potential damage caused by wildfire. A review of ENR's strategic approach to forest fire management will be done and a forest fire management action plan will be developed.

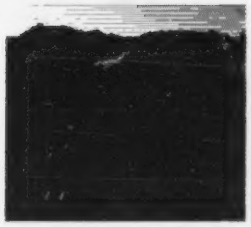
ENR will continue its work to protect NWT waters through the development of an NWT water resources management strategy, completion of transboundary water management agreement negotiations with adjacent jurisdictions and continued active involvement in the Mackenzie River Basin Board.

We have set an ambitious agenda for the next four years. Public awareness, involvement and participation are critical factors in ensuring ENR meets its goals for the next four years.

I encourage all residents of the NWT to read this document and to continue to work with the staff of ENR to maintain a healthy environment for our children and our children's children.



J. Michael Miltenberger
Minister of Environment and Natural Resources



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Appendix A

Overview

The Northwest Territories (NWT) has an abundance of natural resources. Demands for industrial and community development, a changing climate and natural forces are increasing pressures on the environment. There is a need for people to work together to mitigate and control these pressures and maintain a vibrant NWT.

The goals and priority actions established by the 16th Legislative Assembly support this approach. The approach is also reflected in the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) strategic initiative Managing This Land.

During the next four years, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) will focus on these goals and actions as it continues to fulfill its mandate to:

> "promote and support the sustainable use and development of natural resources and to protect, conserve and enhance the NWT environment for the social and economic benefit of all NWT residents."

The environment includes air, land, water, organic matter and all living things. Natural resources are the naturally occurring components of the environment used for human purposes such as the wildlife, forests and water. In all its work, ENR highlights the connections between these components.

Multiple levels of government manage the environment, lands and resources in the NWT. Both scientific and traditional knowledge must be used in developing policy, legislation and programs. Public input enhances actions taken and leads to success. ENR must continue working with others to meet its mandate.

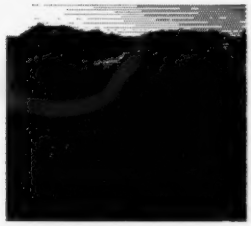
ENR's actions also support or assist local, regional, territorial, national and international organizations in their environmental and natural resource management roles.

In fulfilling its mandate, ENR routinely:

- Brings an NWT perspective to national and international cooperative arrangements (such as the Accord on the Protection of Species at Risk, National Forest Accord, Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, Canadian Council of Forest Ministers and Canadian Council of Wildlife Ministers).
- Gains helpful insight from others for NWT-wide benefit.
- Seeks advice from Aboriginal peoples in the NWT, partnering with their governments and institutions on resource management decision-making and integrating and incorporating traditional knowledge (TK) in decisions.
- Administers ongoing regulatory functions, advises on and coordinates GNWT input to environmental impact reviews and assessments of proposed developments.
- Undertakes cooperative actions among government, communities, boards, agencies and industry to correct unacceptable levels of change in the environment.

- Works with co-management boards and education authorities to develop public information and education campaigns to ensure that individuals and organizations contribute to environmental stewardship and comply with current legislation. Public information and education is critical in ensuring the protection of the environment and the sustainable use of our wildlife and forest resources.

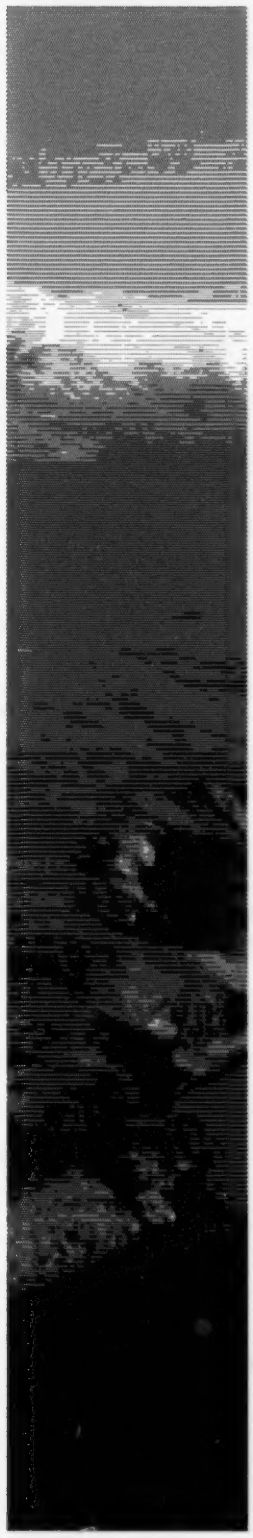
This "Framework for Action 2008-2012" builds on the actions contained in the 2005-2008 Framework for Action. It outlines primary actions planned in each of these areas between 2008 and 2012, and identifies associated timelines and deliverables for each action, subject to final appropriation by the Legislative Assembly. The Minister of ENR is accountable for these actions and will report progress on a biannual basis.

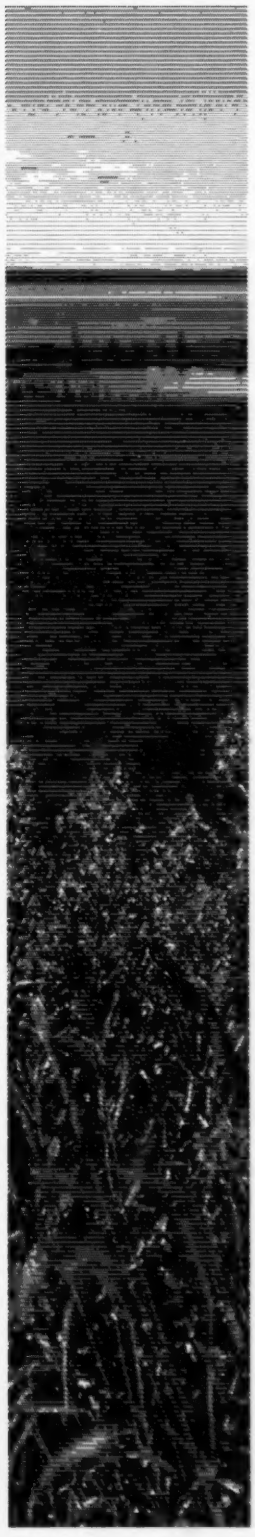


Principles for ENR's Actions

ENR's Establishment Policy sets out principles that guide the Minister and the Department in carrying out their mandate:

1. A healthy environment should be recognized as necessary to maintain human health, prosperity and well-being.
2. Diverse and healthy ecosystems should be protected in a manner that maintains the integrity of ecosystems and biological diversity, and contributes to long-term ecological, economic and social stability.
3. Natural resources should be managed and developed in a manner that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.
4. Effective management of NWT natural resources should support import replacement and export development.
5. Decisions relating to the management and development of natural resources and the territorial economy should be directed towards enhancing territorial and community self-sufficiency, and should incorporate public input, scientific knowledge and traditional knowledge.
6. Programs and services should be delivered in an effective and accountable manner, and as close as practical to the people being served.
7. The design and delivery of programs and services should be based on a clear demonstration of need, benefit, shared risk and sustainability.
8. Application of the concept of sustainable development in all decisions and actions related to natural and heritage resources in the NWT.
9. Application of the concept of traditional knowledge into government decisions and actions related to the natural environment and resources, the use of natural resources and the relationship of people to the land and to each other.





Managing This Land – ENR's Plans for Action for 2008-2012

ENR is the primary department responsible for actions related to the GNWT's Managing This Land strategic initiative. ENR staff work closely with other GNWT departments, Aboriginal governments, communities, boards and agencies.

ENR's planned initiatives in the five primary action areas defined in the Managing This Land strategic initiative are outlined in this Framework for Action. Biannual reports of these actions will provide updates on progress made towards Managing This Land's primary action areas. These actions will fulfill the GNWT's broad goals and priorities, especially "an environment that will sustain present and future generations".

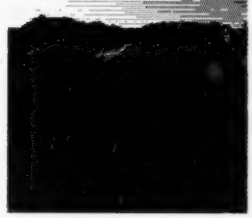
Action 1.0 *Continue to Develop* ***Governance***
Rationale: Governance initiatives inform and guide land use decisions and management; lands, resources and self-government negotiations; protection of significant lands; sustainable resource management; and the use of public lands, such that broad public interests can be realized.

Action 2.0 *Work to Mitigate and Adapt to* ***Climate Change***
Rationale: Climate change initiatives include investments in improved planning and coordination; specific mitigation activities; and delivery of the GNWT's Greenhouse Gas Strategy.

Action 3.0 *Improve* ***Environmental Knowledge***
Rationale: Environmental monitoring is vital in gaining information about the land and its resources needed for wise decision-making by multiple agencies.

Action 4.0 *Improve* ***Environmental Stewardship***
Rationale: In the NWT, governments, organizations and the public take multiple actions to advance policy, legislation, plans and programs to support stewardship and sustainable use of the environment and its natural resources.

Action 5.0 *Work to* ***Protect Territorial Waters***
Rationale: Concerted efforts are underway to map out a vision and goals for an NWT Water Resources Management Strategy. The GNWT focuses its actions on the protection of public water supplies, understanding the aquatic ecosystem, the management of transboundary waters and developing an NWT Water Resources Management Strategy.



1.0 GOVERNANCE

ENR will contribute to GNWT actions focusing on the continued development of governance. Governance relates to management and leadership processes and decision-making for the NWT public.

1.1 Consultation Framework for ENR

As part of its ongoing business, ENR consults with Aboriginal governments, organizations, co-management boards, communities and NWT residents. Consultation helps shape legislation, policy or programming. It also ensures management decisions integrate provisions contained in lands, resources and self-government agreements, and do not infringe upon proven or asserted Aboriginal or Treaty rights. ENR will build on the August 2007 *Government of the Northwest Territories' Approach to Consultation with Aboriginal Governments and Organizations* to develop a departmental consultation framework. Stages addressed in the framework include: pre-consultation assessment; development of an engagement process designed to address specific circumstances; undertaking formal consultation and potential accommodation; and post-consultation follow-up.

Action 1.1.1 Develop a consultation framework for ENR based on the GNWT's *Approach to Consultation with Aboriginal Governments and Organizations*.
Timeline: June 2009

1.2 Land Use Policy Framework

One of the priorities of the 16th Legislative Assembly is to achieve significant progress toward northern control for the administration of lands, the regulatory system and resource revenues. Currently, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) is responsible for the management, administration and control of land, water, minerals, oil and gas and the environment in the NWT. As management responsibilities are devolved, the GNWT increases its ability to serve the interests of residents and increase their self-sufficiency while promoting effective, efficient and coordinated development of natural resources.

A NWT land use policy framework will ensure consistent, collaborative GNWT input into the management of NWT lands and assist in advancing lands, resources and self-government agreements and devolution discussions. ENR will ensure land use planning and landscape management expertise is carefully considered in the development of a land use policy framework.

ENR is responsible for coordinating GNWT input into land use planning initiatives in the NWT. In general, land use planning guides conservation and development activities. A land use plan often indicates which lands will be conserved, where and how certain types of development can take place, and helps to pace land use activity according to its effects on the land. Land use planning provisions are often found in lands, resources and self-government agreements and interim measures agreements. Land use planning in the NWT may be carried out using various instruments, including community conservation plans, watershed management plans, regional land use plans and protected areas.

Action 1.2.1 Report progress on ENR's participation in collaborative initiatives related to a land use framework, including landscape management activities and regional land use planning.
Timeline: June 2009 and then biannually

1.3 NWT Protected Areas Strategy

The NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) was developed in partnership with communities, Aboriginal governments, federal agencies, industry and environmental non-government organizations to identify and establish a network of protected areas in the NWT. The PAS identifies two goals:

1. To protect special natural and cultural areas.
2. To protect representative core areas within each ecoregion.

Since 1999, the partners have worked to implement the PAS. The Mackenzie Valley Five-year Action Plan was released in 2004 to accelerate the establishment of protected areas in advance of pipeline construction. More than $17 million dollars was committed by INAC, ENR and environmental non-government organizations to implement the Action Plan. Although ambitious, the Action Plan has been successful in identifying candidate areas throughout the Mackenzie Valley and moving them through the PAS process. Completing the work of establishing areas identified under the Action Plan will be critical to the long-term success of the PAS. A new plan for the final three years of the PAS will be required in 2010. Given its mandate in land and resource management, ENR has a leadership role in coordinating implementation of this work. This could include permanently protecting areas through the use of territorial legislation. For example, ENR can establish "Critical Wildlife Areas" by creating regulations under the *Wildlife Act*. A map of important wildlife areas is being developed to help identify potential Critical Wildlife Areas.

Action 1.3.1 Develop a preliminary map of important wildlife areas in the NWT.
Timeline: December 2009

Action 1.3.2 Prepare a Three-year PAS Action Plan for 2010-2013.
Timeline: March 2010

Action 1.3.3 Work with Nunavut to implement the Thelon Management Plan.
Timeline: March 2010

Action 1.3.4 Use ENR legislation, such as Critical Wildlife Areas, to sponsor candidate sites.
Timeline: December 2011

1.4 Managing Landscape Change

The GNWT routinely assesses monitors and evaluates the impacts human activities have on the NWT environment. Regulations, authorizations and agreements may also be put in place to minimize and monitor inevitable change. A well coordinated approach ensures that potentially harmful human activities are well managed and do not cause unacceptable levels of damage to the environment.

Changes to the landscape are often not the result of a single activity, but the result of a number of activities taking place over time or in adjacent regions. These "cumulative effects" from existing community or resource development activities and proposed activities are a significant concern in the NWT. Models can be developed to explore cumulative effects management then piloted in certain areas to see if the proposed practices work. ENR participates in the Environmental Stewardship Framework (ESF) (formerly the Cumulative Effects and Monitoring Framework) and the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP). These programs are partnerships between INAC, Environment Canada and ENR.

Action 1.4.1 In partnership with industry and Aboriginal organizations and boards, identify management actions to reduce and mitigate impacts on boreal caribou and their habitat from resource development.
Timeline: December 2009

Action 1.4.2 Report on ESF and CIMP progress.
Timeline: December 2009 and then annually

1.5 NWT Science Agenda

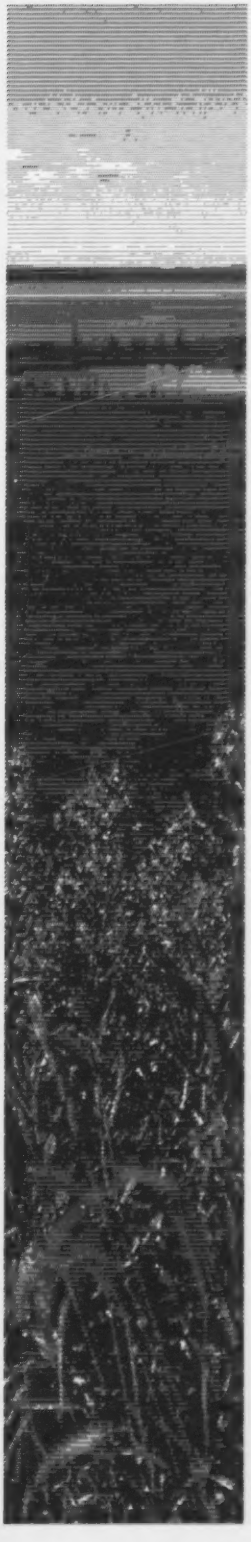
ENR's mandate demands the Department maintain a significant capacity for research. Wildlife and forest management studies carried out by ENR are often done in partnership with universities to take advantage of new tools or techniques. ENR also relies heavily on research conducted by others. Southern-based academic institutions have a strong interest in working in the North. However, their research focus often does not address research questions from ENR.

ENR focuses on applied research activities in the forest resources management sector and works with partnership agencies to develop tools and information management systems supporting decisions and operations in the forest management and forest fire management realms.

Other GNWT departments have research needs, but no scientific capacity. The GNWT is investigating models to ensure research addressing northern needs is conducted. Resource development, climate change, economic change, new technology, new health risks and social change all require the GNWT to adapt its programs and services. The GNWT needs sound and reliable information drawn primarily from science to make informed decisions and to plot a course of action. A more comprehensive approach is required to support, enhance and coordinate GNWT science activities and develop a strategic research plan.

Action 1.5.1 Identify ENR research needs and research priorities.
Timeline: June 2009 and then annually

Action 1.5.2 Work with other GNWT departments to prepare a GNWT Science Agenda.
Timeline: September 2009



1.6 ENR Succession Planning

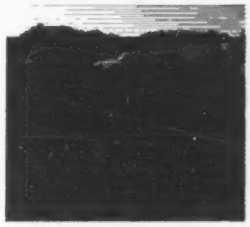
The GNWT needs a strong public service to carry out effective governance strategies and actions to manage the environment and natural resources. With 45 percent of ENR's total workforce and 83 percent of ENR's senior managers eligible for retirement within the next decade, succession planning will ensure gaps in the workforce are minimized.

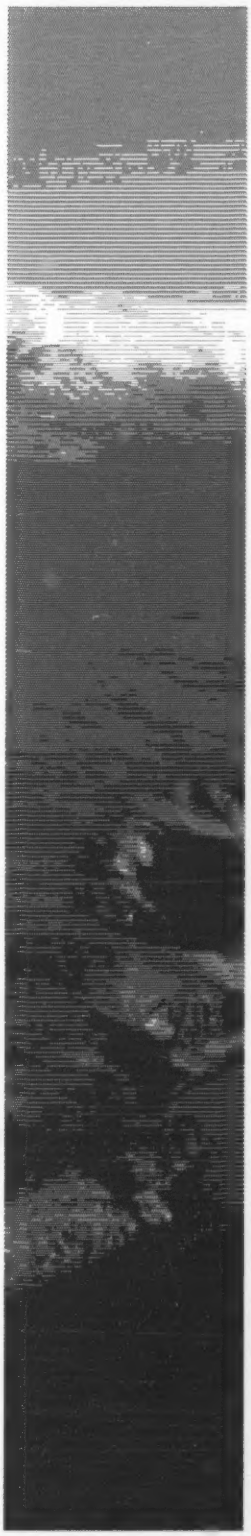
As of September 30, 2008, seven employees were participating in transfer assignments to develop skills and broaden their experience. Of those seven, two have completed their training and have been direct appointed into their positions.

In 2008-2009 ENR is sponsoring two employees in the Emerging Managers Program and another two in the Middle Managers Program.

For the longer term, it is important that ENR ensures the right staff is in the right place at the right time. Gaps in the workforce must be addressed. Present and future staff must have sound knowledge, skills and abilities required for their positions.

Action 1.6.1 Work with the Department of Human Resources to develop a Succession Plan for ENR.
Timeline: December 2010





2.0 CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

Climate change is a key issue facing all levels of government and all people. The GNWT is working proactively to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change through improved planning and coordination, specific mitigation activities for transportation networks and continuing delivery of the GNWT's Greenhouse Gas Strategy.

2.1 Energy and Climate Change

Reliable, affordable and clean energy is a key to the sustainable development of our economy, a lower cost of living and enhanced quality of life. A carefully planned and coordinated approach leads to low cost sources of energy and helps us meet our demands for energy and our obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Working with our federal government, Aboriginal governments and community partners, the GNWT is building on our knowledge of clean energy, including low impact hydroelectricity, natural gas, wind, biomass and geothermal energy, and looking at options for the use of such energy sources in NWT communities. ENR is providing this information to the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI), which is developing a broad Energy Priorities document to guide and focus shared efforts.

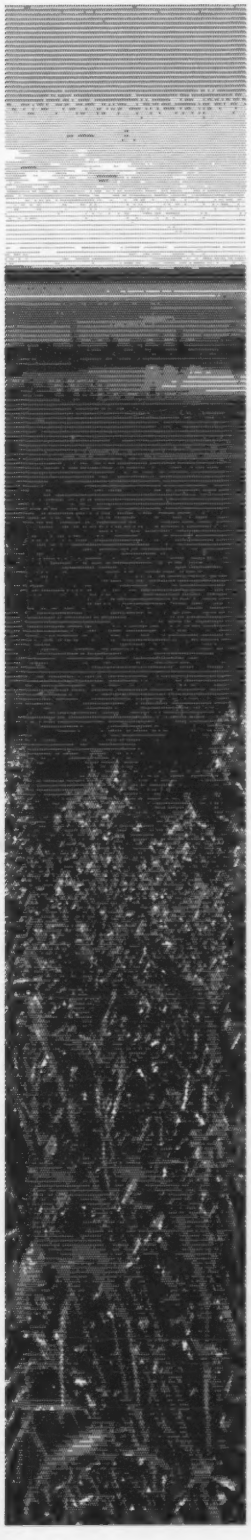
The NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy is linked to these energy initiatives. The Strategy, initiated in 2001 and updated in 2005 and 2007, identifies northern actions to control greenhouse gas emissions and partners who are collaborating in these efforts, including the federal government. ENR also works closely with, and provides support to, the Arctic Energy Alliance to assist NWT residents, communities and businesses reduce the costs and environmental impacts of energy and utility services in the NWT.

Action 2.1.1 Work with energy partners to prepare detailed plans for action on enhancing use of alternative energy sources (biomass, geothermal, wind).
Timeline: December 2009

Action 2.1.2 Support actions identified in the NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy and report progress annually.
Timeline: April 2009 and then annually

Action 2.1.3 Support NWT residents, businesses and communities to reduce energy consumption and implement alternative energy solutions.
Timeline: April 2009 and then annually

Action 2.1.4 Work with energy partners to install wind turbines in Tuktoyaktuk.
Timeline: June 2010



2.2 Climate Change Adaptation

ENR released an NWT Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Report, developed in consultation with other GNWT departments, in 2008. A Climate Change Adaptation Plan is now being developed to address the development of climate change scenarios, identification of current and future vulnerabilities, and steps required to minimize impacts.

Action 2.2.1 Prepare and release a climate change impacts and adaptation plan developed in consultation with affected departments.
Timeline: December 2009

2.3 New Climate Change Network

All northerners must work proactively to reduce the emissions causing climate change and to adapt to climate change impacts. Communication and coordination among the various organizations addressing climate change is vital to ensure consistency and avoid duplication. A Climate Change Network will support organizations involved in greenhouse gas mitigation and climate change adaptation. The Network will also coordinate reporting of GNWT greenhouse gas emissions through the Climate Change Registry.

Action 2.3.1 Provide communication and coordination support to organizations involved in greenhouse gas mitigation and climate change adaptation.
Timeline: September 2009

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE

Sensitive northern ecosystems change constantly as a result of shifts in climate and resource development both within the NWT and beyond its borders. Knowledge about the land and its resources informs management decisions such as environmental monitoring, planning and impact assessment.

Knowledge gained through scientific research and monitoring, as well as experience on the land, contributes to our understanding of broad ecosystem functions and the impact human activities have on our land and people. Understanding these connections helps predict how the land might change in the future and helps us identify appropriate management solutions (i.e. land use and resource management planning). Potential impacts can be avoided or decreased.

ENR contributes to the information base about the environment and its resources, which helps track changes over time. Ideally, this "baseline data" can be used to compare environmental conditions before development occurs to conditions during or after development. When unacceptable changes are detected, management actions can be taken.

A crucial part of environmental knowledge is ensuring that accurate, up-to-date information is readily accessible to decision-makers. Information management systems enhance how information can be used to advance knowledge and understanding.

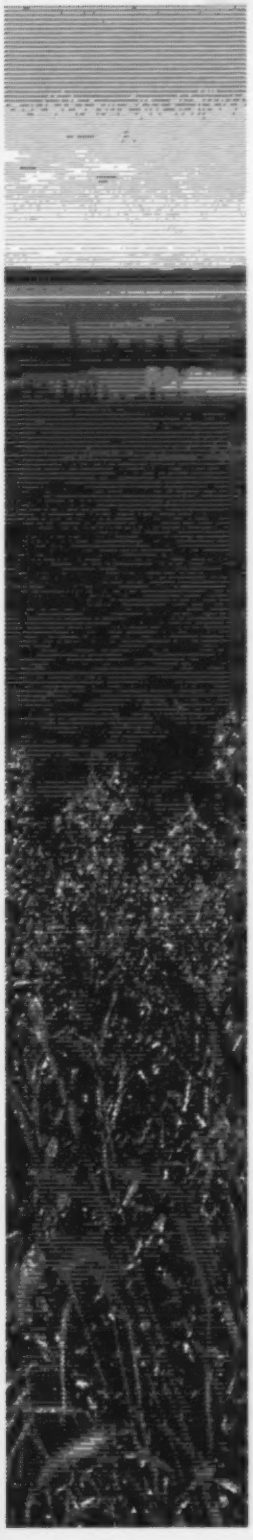
3.1 Classifying and Mapping Ecosystems

An ecological land classification for the NWT, based on landscape, climate zones and vegetation, is being developed. Forest, wildlife and land use managers can use it as a basis to identify areas to be protected. It also helps in assessing the impacts of human activities and wildland fires on wildlife habitat, forest productivity and changes in the plant community.

Action 3.1.1 Complete and publish ecological land classification for the Taiga Shield Ecozone.
Timeline: March 2009

Action 3.1.2 Complete and publish ecological land classification for the Cordillera Ecozone.
Timeline: September 2009

Action 3.1.3 Complete and publish ecological land classification for the Southern and High Arctic Ecozones.
Timeline: September 2011



3.2 Gathering Baseline Information and Monitoring Cumulative Effects

People engage in a range of activities on the land that use natural resources. These include hunting, trapping, mineral exploration and ecotourism. All of these activities have an impact on NWT ecosystems and affect how the land functions and what resources are available for use in the future. We need to have a good sense of its current condition and monitor activities on the land to detect changes early, before they become significant or irreversible. The GNWT engages in various initiatives to gather baseline data and monitor impacts to the land.

The Western NWT Biophysical Study collects information on the environment and wildlife in the Mackenzie Valley. This information shows the condition of the land in its natural state so we can monitor and manage impacts from resource development. ENR will review information available for priority areas in the Mackenzie Valley to identify gaps in baseline data for cumulative impact assessment and to develop programs to address those gaps.

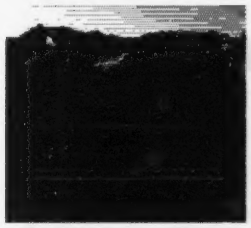
National Forest Inventory surveys form part of the baseline information on forest resources and the forest landscape. This ongoing work by ENR forms part of the national reporting on the state of forest resources and change over time.

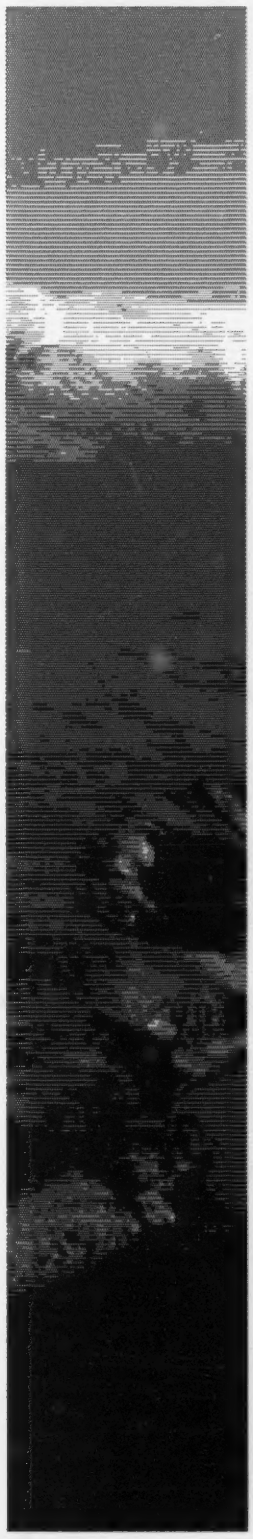
Governments have been monitoring air quality in the NWT since 1974. Air quality monitoring stations measure a variety of priority air pollutants. In anticipation of oil and gas development, the Yellowknife-based system of air quality monitoring stations was expanded in 1998 by installing state-of-the-art stations in the communities of Fort Liard, Norman Wells and Inuvik.

Action 3.2.1 Expand the existing air quality network into small NWT communities.
Timeline: June 2009

Action 3.2.2 Review available baseline data on wildlife and vegetation, and develop a plan to address data gaps to ensure cumulative impacts and landscape change are well monitored and assessed.
Timeline: December 2009

Action 3.2.3 Implement programs through the Western NWT Biophysical Study to address gaps in baseline data and information, and enhance monitoring of cumulative impact indicators.
Timeline: December 2010





3.3 Building a Forest Management Information System

The purpose of the Forest Management Information System (FMIS) initiative is to define and establish a framework for managing critical and corporate data across the Sustainable Forest and Wildfire Management business areas. This project develops and deploys common integrated databases and common modules to support program delivery across ENR. Since data is a key asset of the organization and is critical for effective decision-making, FMIS will help put the proper practices and tools in place to accomplish ENR's mandate.

Action 3.3.1 Design and develop a Wildfire Management application (EMBER Module).
Timeline: September 2009

3.4 Environmental Assessment Tracking System (EATS)

ENR issues authorizations related to its legislated mandate under the *Wildlife Act, Environmental Protection Act, Forest Management Act, Forest Protection Act* and *Pesticide Act*. ENR also coordinates GNWT participation in environmental assessments, environmental impact reviews and environmental agreements and acts as an expert advisor to review agencies doing environmental impact assessments and regulatory reviews.

The number and complexity of development projects under review means considerable incoming and outgoing information must be managed in a manner that allows the GNWT to track authorizations and commitments effectively. ENR will prepare a system to track processes, key messages, commitments and issues that arise related to development and the environment.

Action 3.4.1 Design, build and implement the EATS system to better manage the GNWT's environmental assessment processes and associated information management library.
Timeline: June 2009

3.5 Compliance Database

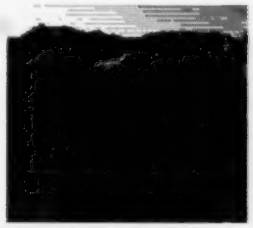
A web-based compliance database is needed to allow ENR staff to store and distribute occurrence and investigation information. The system will provide timely historical compliance data, will assist in the exchange of compliance activities between regions and will support the planning, monitoring and reporting responsibilities of ENR. It will also ensure that new and existing legislation is enforced.

Action 3.5.1 Design, build and implement the Compliance Database to accommodate wildlife permits, resource harvesting permits, enhanced vendor return data entry, license editing capability and associated audit trail, additional reporting requirements and enhanced security.
Timeline: June 2010

3.6 Reporting on the Northwest Territories "State of the Environment"

Information presented in a clear, concise and understandable manner is key to making informed decisions. The NWT's *State of the Environment Report* is designed to periodically update residents and decision-makers on the state of the environment, biodiversity and natural resources. It will also help create a knowledgeable and informed public who are able to effectively participate in sustaining healthy northern ecosystems.

Action 3.6.1 Develop a "State of the Environment" report on the NWT environment, focusing on its air, wildlife and forests.
Timeline: June 2009



3.7 Traditional Knowledge Policy Implementation

The GNWT's Traditional Knowledge Policy was approved in 1997. It "recognizes that Aboriginal traditional knowledge is a valid and essential source of information about the natural environment and its resources, the use of natural resources and the relationship of people to the land and to each other". This policy formalized the GNWT's commitment to "incorporate traditional knowledge (TK) into government decisions and actions where appropriate".

ENR is responsible for coordinating the implementation of government-wide TK initiatives and ensuring that traditional knowledge about the environment is considered in all related management actions and decisions. ENR has reviewed the TK Policy and developed a plan to strengthen the role of TK within the GNWT. ENR determined early in the process that revisions to the TK Policy were not warranted because the current policy provides clear direction for the incorporation of TK in ENR activities. ENR also chose to look into its own implementation practices before developing a Traditional Knowledge Implementation Framework (TKIF) to address ENR's internal and inter-departmental obligations.

The TKIF focuses on the following priorities: better overall coordination of TK Policy implementation; more consistent orientation, awareness and training opportunities relating to TK for employees and others; and development of stronger and more effective collaborative relationships with holders of TK through their Aboriginal governments and cultural agencies. It is important that any access and use of TK acknowledge and respect cultural ownership and control over TK by the holders of this knowledge. Successes and protocols developed regarding TK will be shared with other GNWT departments for review and use as appropriate.

Action 3.7.1 Work with Aboriginal government and partners, including communities and regional resource management agencies, to support the implementation of the ENR TKIF through a formal process of discussions and report on findings.
Timeline: March 2009

Action 3.7.2 Develop and implement protocols with regional Aboriginal governments and agencies to access and share TK.
Timeline: June 2012

Action 3.7.3 Work with the GNWT Interdepartmental TK Working Group to develop a plan for government-wide implementation of the Traditional Knowledge Policy.
Timeline: September 2012

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

The careful and responsible management of the environment and our natural resources is of critical importance to the people and Aboriginal cultures of the NWT. Protecting the environment and conserving our natural resources requires good planning and management of all development projects.

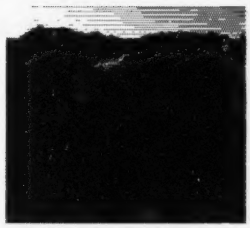
Public governments and organizations in the NWT take multiple actions to advance policy, legislation, plans and programs supporting environmental stewardship and co-management. These actions ensure the environment is protected and natural resources are used wisely. The GNWT will continue to work collaboratively with organizations across the NWT and Canada to advance legislation, policies, plans and programs to improve environmental stewardship.

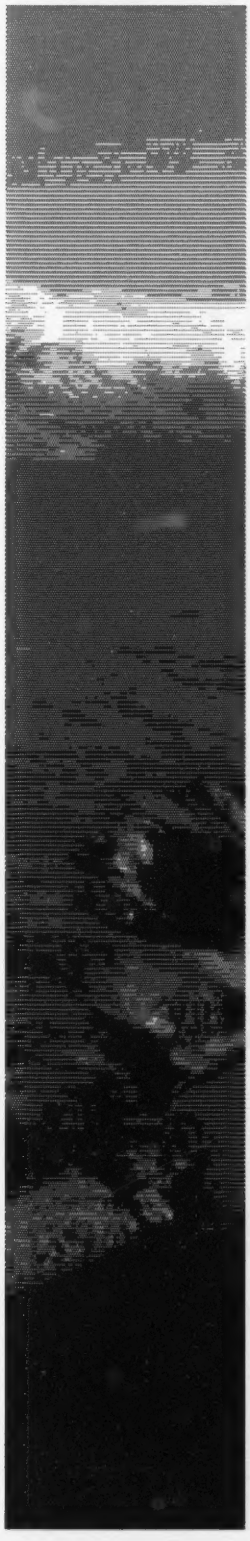
4.1 Past Environmental Legacies

Past industrial, military and community activities have resulted in an environmental legacy of abandoned waste sites across the NWT. The GNWT maintains direct responsibility for abandoned sites on Commissioner's Lands and has a strong interest in ensuring abandoned sites on federal and Aboriginal lands are managed and remediated. Of particular importance are the remnants of early gold and uranium mining, which continue to contaminate the environment.

Beginning in the 1930s, the Northern Transportation Route (the Route) was used to transport uranium ore from Port Radium Mine on Great Bear Lake to the railhead at Waterways, Alberta. The Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Office of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) manages abandoned uranium-contaminated sites on behalf of Canada. In 1992, NRCan began to survey the Route and identified elevated levels of radioactivity in soil at various locations along the Great Bear, Mackenzie and Slave River systems.

Gold mining and milling operations began at the Con Mine site in 1938. In 2003, Con Mine's owner (Miramar Con Mine Ltd.) submitted a proposed closure and reclamation plan to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) in partial fulfillment of the company's closure obligations under the federal water licence and territorial land lease. In 2004, Miramar announced the closure of mining and milling activities at Con Mine. ENR sits as a key representative on a working group established by the MVLWB to conduct a technical review and make recommendations on the closure and reclamation plan.





At Giant Mine, gold mining and milling began in 1948. In 2005, the owner of the Giant Mine declared bankruptcy, and ownership of the mine and site transferred to the Governments of Canada and Northwest Territories. INAC and the GNWT now share responsibility, under a Cooperation Agreement, for the care, maintenance and remediation of the site. ENR is also a technical advisor to the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) as the administrator of Commissioner's Land.

Action 4.1.1 Work with the federal government to develop and implement a comprehensive plan for managing contaminated soil along the Northern Transportation Route.
Timeline: December 2009

Action 4.1.2 Report progress on implementation of the approved closure and reclamation plan by Miramar Con Mine Limited.
Timeline: Ongoing until remediation of site is complete (expected in 2010), followed by several years of site monitoring.

Action 4.1.3 Support the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) processes to complete the Environmental Assessment for Giant Mine's remediation in partnership with the Giant Mine Remediation Team.
Timeline: December 2009

Action 4.1.4 Address recommendations resulting from the review of the Giant Mine Remediation Plan and begin remediation of the Giant Mine site.
Timeline: September 2010 (begin remediation)

4.2 Waste Recovery Programs

Waste recovery and recycling reduces our use of raw materials, saves landfill space, reduces emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants, and provides local business opportunities. The *Waste Reduction and Recovery Act* provides the legislative framework for programs resulting in the recovery, reuse and recycling of waste materials.

The Beverage Container Program (BCP) was the first program to be established under the *Act* (2005). It focused on the recovery of ready-to-serve beverage containers. Between November 1, 2005 and March 31, 2008, almost 71 million containers were sold in the NWT and almost 57 million (or 80%) have been diverted from the landfill. These return rates are among the highest in the country. Prior to the implementation of this program, most beverage containers ended up in landfills or as litter across the land.

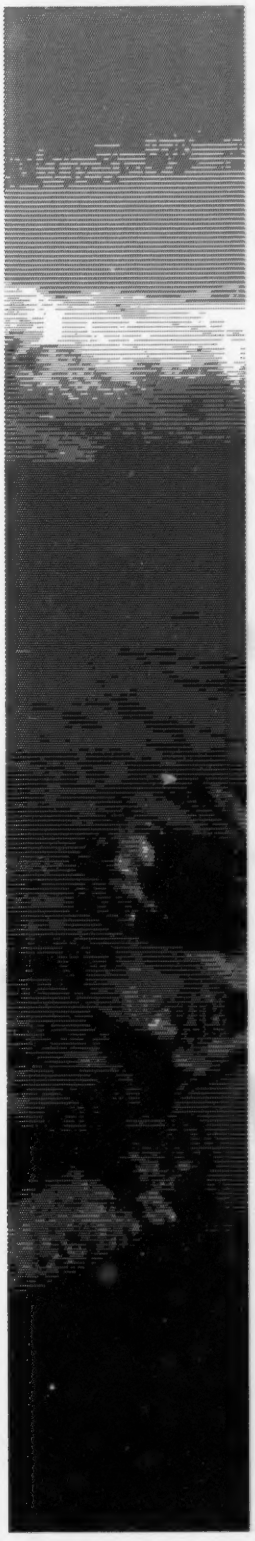
Building on the success of the BCP, and the results of public consultations on program expansion conducted in early 2008, ENR will expand the BCP to include milk containers and introduce new programs to further reduce wastes that impact landfill lifespan, contribute to litter and pose risk to the environment.

Action 4.2.1 Introduce a Paper Products Diversion Initiative to provide financial support for NWT businesses, municipalities and environmental groups to investigate and/or pilot creative solutions for diverting paper products from community landfills.
Timeline: June 2009

Action 4.2.2 Implement actions to reduce the use of single-use retail plastic and paper bags, including introduction of a fee on single-use retail bags.
Timeline: September 2009

Action 4.2.3 Add milk containers to the Beverage Container Program.
Timeline: June 2009

Action 4.2.4 Determine the appropriate approach to, and the setting up of, a comprehensive electronics waste recovery program in the NWT.
Timeline: September 2010



4.3 Best Management Practices, Standards and Guidelines

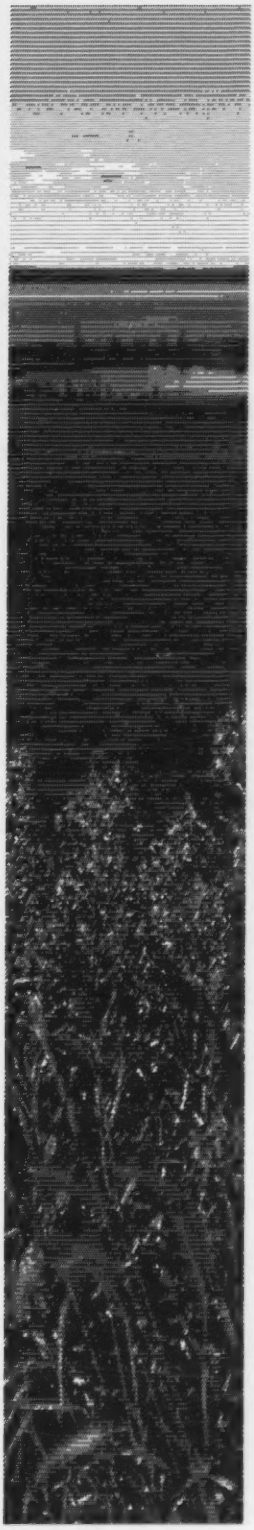
"Best management practices" are used to guide industry and regulatory agencies in the prevention and reduction of impacts to the environment, forests and wildlife, and to encourage the use of innovative practices. These are particularly important to manage mineral and oil and gas development in the NWT and reduce cumulative impacts. As development activities increase on the land, the greater the potential for environmental degradation if up-to-date best management practices are not used.

For many years, ENR has prepared environmental guidelines for handling waste products, remediating contaminated sites, suppressing dust and maintaining air quality. ENR has also developed standard operating procedures for commercial forest harvesting. As the pace of development increases, guidance is needed to ensure that development proceeds in a manner that minimizes impacts to the environment.

Action 4.3.1 In collaboration with Environment Canada and INAC, develop NWT-wide Guidelines for Seismic Operations to address the ecological impacts of seismic operations in a proactive manner.
Timeline: March 2009

Action 4.3.2 Develop "air quality best management practices" for the oil and gas industry, including exploration, preliminary processing and transport.
Timeline: December 2009

Action 4.3.3 Identify additional "best management practice" guidance documents for minerals, oil and gas development and other industrial activities to reduce and mitigate environmental impacts, especially to forests, wildlife and habitat.
Timeline: Summer 2010 and then annually



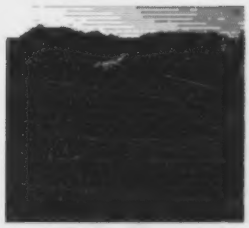
4.4 Managing Shared Wildlife Populations

The NWT shares responsibility for managing several wildlife populations, including a number of endangered or threatened species, with neighbouring jurisdictions. Shared populations include barren-ground, mountain and woodland caribou as well as polar bears. These species play an important role in the cultural, economic and spiritual lives of many NWT residents. ENR is working with neighbouring and Aboriginal governments to develop common management plans and actions that ensure human activities do not impact the health or productivity of these wildlife species.

Action 4.4.1 Conduct an independent peer review of barren-ground caribou survey methods and outcomes.
Timeline: March 2009

Action 4.4.2 Develop a Five-year NWT Barren-ground Caribou Management Strategy 2010-2015.
Timeline: June 2010

Action 4.4.3 Develop agreements with the governments of Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Yukon and Nunavut on the management of shared wildlife populations, including polar bears, barren-ground caribou and boreal caribou.
Timeline: December 2010



4.5 Species at Risk

Effective protection is required for species of plants and animals living in the NWT listed under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). ENR is working with other management authorities, such as wildlife co-management boards established under lands, resources and self-government agreements, to prepare action or management plans for species that are listed or may be listed under SARA. These include boreal caribou, wood bison, Peary caribou, leopard frog, grizzly bear, polar bear and wolverine. Completing these plans will help industry identify the actions needed to eliminate or minimize impacts on these species and their habitats. ENR also tracks which species may be at risk by publishing a report every five years on the general status of species in the NWT.

Action 4.5.1 Develop a NWT Bison Management Strategy.
Timeline: December 2008

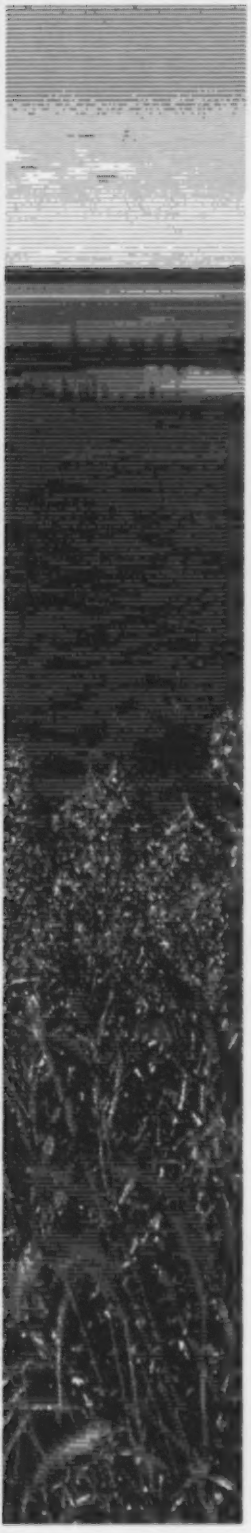
Action 4.5.2 Develop a NWT Action Plan for Boreal Caribou.
Timeline: June 2009

Action 4.5.3 Develop Wood Bison Management Plans for the Liard, Mackenzie and Slave River Lowland populations.
Timeline: December 2010

Action 4.5.4 Update the General Status Ranks of Wild Species in the NWT 2011-2015.
Timeline: June 2011

4.6 Environmental Legislation

Laws help ensure people, businesses and industry behave in ways that will maintain our valuable NWT environment and resources. ENR is establishing new legislation to protect and recover species at risk and updating legislation to enhance wildlife and forest management. Extensive consultation with land claim organizations, Aboriginal governments, residents, communities and industry will take place.



4.6.1 Species at Risk Legislation

In 2003, the GNWT signed an Accord that commits federal, provincial and territorial governments to a national approach to protect endangered species and their habitat. A NWT *Species at Risk Act* has been drafted to implement commitments under the national Accord. The new *Act* reflects input received during several consultation processes and promotes a collaborative approach with wildlife management authorities established pursuant to lands, resources and self-government agreements. A Bilateral Cooperation Agreement on Species at Risk defines how the GNWT and Canada will cooperate on administering species at risk programs.

Action 4.6.1.1 Introduce the NWT *Species at Risk Act.*
Timeline: December 2008

Action 4.6.1.2 Implement actions under the NWT *Species at Risk Act.*
Timeline: June 2010

Action 4.6.1.3 Sign Bilateral Cooperation Agreement on NWT Species at Risk.
Timeline: March 2010

4.6.2 A New Wildlife Act

The new *Wildlife Act* will reform wildlife management law by enacting legislation that is comprehensive, enforceable and respectful of Aboriginal and treaty harvesting rights. The new *Wildlife Act* will provide the GNWT with tools to effectively manage and protect wildlife populations and their habitat. It will also address the new requirements necessary to ensure consistency with federal legislation, the Canadian *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, settlement of lands, resources and self-government agreements and court decisions relating to Aboriginal harvesting rights. The fundamental principle underlying the legislation will be the conservation of wildlife. The new *Act* will reflect input from a previous three-year consultation process and will be developed collaboratively with Aboriginal governments.

Action 4.6.2.1 Release a draft *Wildlife Act* for public consultation.
Timeline: March 2011

Action 4.6.2.2 Introduce the revised *Wildlife Act.*
Timeline: December 2011

4.6.3 Forest Management Legislation

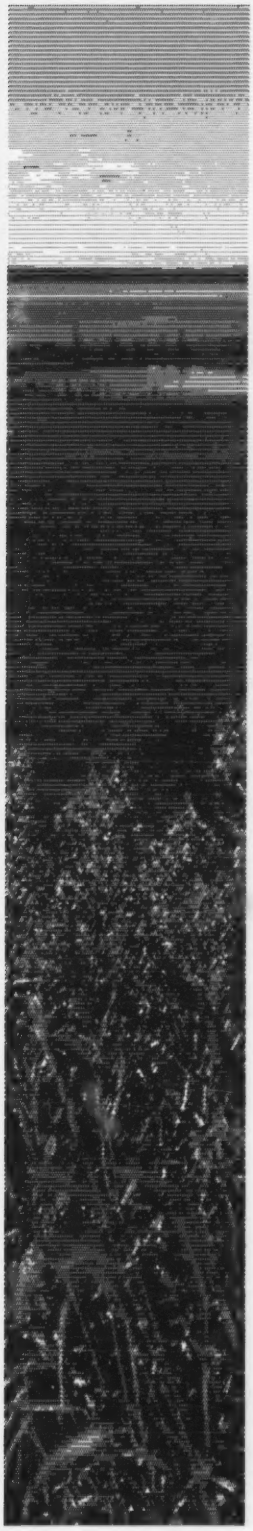
The NWT requires a framework for forest management to ensure sustainable management of forest resources based on ecological concepts. Legislation recognizing fire as a significant and natural phenomenon in the boreal forest of the NWT is also required. The existing *Forest Protection Act* and *Forest Management Act* do not provide the tools necessary to manage forest resources consistent with federal commitments to sustainable forestry, the NWT Sustainable Development Policy and forest management principles in use today. The *Forest Management Act* is prescriptive in nature and does not provide guidance about how forests should be managed. The existing *Forest Protection Act* is outdated and does not support the NWT Fire Management Policy originally approved in 1990. As well, these *Acts* do not adequately address consultation with Aboriginal organizations, lands, resources and self-government agreement provisions and Aboriginal rights. ENR also has no formal Forest Management Policy defining the GNWT's commitment to, and tools for, achieving sustainable forest management.

Increased industrial development activity has had an impact on the NWT's forest resources, as trees are cut to make way for activities undertaken under the issuance of land use permits. Regulation of incidental timber use is necessary to properly manage impacts of trees cut for purposes other than commercial forestry.

Action 4.6.3.1 Identify framework components and major steps for development of new forest and wildland fire management legislation and policy.
Timeline: December 2008

Action 4.6.3.2 Develop draft action plan for new forest and wildland fire management legislation and policy.
Timeline: June 2009

Action 4.6.3.3 Develop and implement regulations that require issuance of an Incidental Timber Harvesting Permit when cutting trees related to an industrial development activity.
Timeline: December 2009



4.7 Maintaining Forest Fire Management Services Program Effectiveness

In the NWT, ENR is responsible for providing wildland fire management services. These responsibilities are undertaken consistent with the NWT Forest Fire Management Policy (53.2). Funding for wildland fire management is under the Forest Management Program. The cost of fighting wildland fires during the last several years has been considerably more than the total funding available to the program. The program is also facing challenges related to the replacement of aging infrastructure, the need to protect communities through risk mitigation approaches and increased costs associated with fire response. As the cost and impact of managing wildland fires continues to increase, coupled with the potential implications of climate change, there is a need to ensure a program is in place that meets requirements for preparedness while being cost effective. It is logical to assume that the frequency and intensity of fires will change as the climate changes. A longer fire season associated with changes in precipitation and temperature, along with additional stresses to forest and vegetation such as drought, flooding, insects and disease, reinforce the need to identify how the program can effectively meet the challenges.

Action 4.7.1 Conduct a review of ENR's strategic approach to wildland fire management that includes recommended changes. This will include a review of how the NWT Forest Fire Management Policy is implemented related to values at risk and the need to consider natural resource values such as habitat and needs of migratory species like caribou.
Timeline: September 2009

Action 4.7.2 Develop a Forest Fire Management Action Plan to address issues or gaps identified through the aforementioned review.
Timeline: December 2009

4.8 Wildland Fire Management

Risk management strategies and community protection plans are essential parts of wildland fire management. Plans for areas surrounding communities are key items and community input is invaluable in the development of these plans.

4.8.1 Protecting Communities From Wildland Fire

The problem of wildland fires threatening NWT communities requires a broader-based solution than that provided through fire suppression and emergency responses alone. Development of Community Protection Plans helps minimize risk and potential damage caused by wildfire. Plans incorporate FireSmart principles and practices, and are based on appropriate information, including fuel hazard assessments for areas in the wildland/urban interface. These plans are integrated with land use planning processes and address fire response planning and training needs in communities. This enables individual property or home owners to take a significant role and assume greater responsibility for prevention of and response to wildfires.

Action 4.8.1.1 Develop FireSmart interface fire management plans for Fort Smith, Kakisa and Tsiigehtchic.
Timeline: December 2009

Action 4.8.1.2 Develop a new inter-jurisdictional multi-year research plan to identify and address research gaps in community protection.
Timeline: December 2009

4.8.2 Forest Renewal

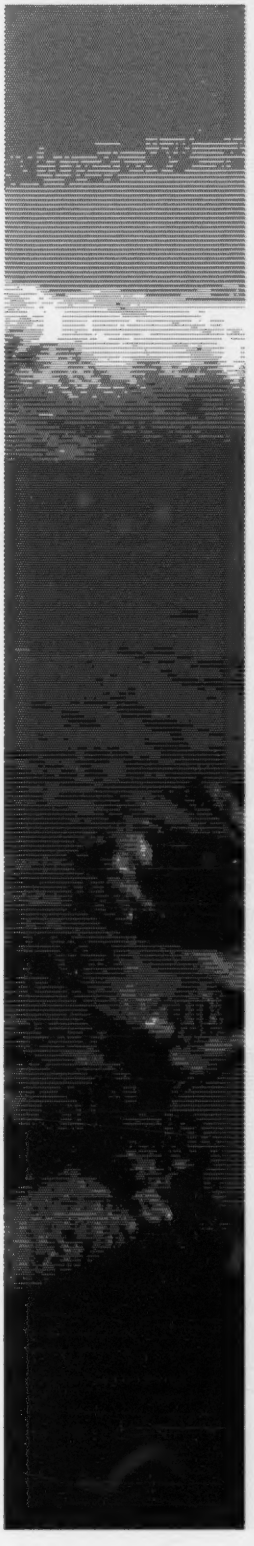
Adequate and timely regeneration following the removal of forest vegetation is necessary to maintain the long-term sustainability of NWT forests. Failure to ensure adequate regeneration will negatively impact the long-term availability of forest resources and has the potential to result in a forest resource with lessened values for future generations of northerners. Increased interest in commercial forestry, continued use of forest vegetation for fuel wood and other domestic purposes, and use related to oil and gas exploration and development has resulted in considerable losses to forest vegetation. All of these activities have implications for forest renewal. As well, the cost of reforestation activities in the NWT has increased dramatically in recent years, making traditional renewal approaches costly to implement. There is a need to explore alternatives to ensure forests are renewed and sustainable management can be achieved. More cost-effective approaches for forest renewal programs will be developed and implemented. A framework for the development of a strategy has been completed. Development of the strategy is the next step.

Action 4.8.2.1 Prepare a Strategy for Forest Renewal in the NWT to ensure sustainable use of forest resources.
Timeline: June 2009

4.9 Managing Forest Resources

Settlement of lands, resources and self-government agreements in the NWT has created multiple bodies with responsibilities for the management of forest resources. The creation of Resource Management Boards under these agreements provides a vehicle for the development of forest management plans addressing the joint interests and responsibilities for management of forest resources in settlement areas. ENR is working with Aboriginal governments to prepare management plans for forest resources under joint interest in settled claim areas. Completing these plans will help Aboriginal governments and the GNWT ensure that forest resources are managed sustainably and continue to meet the needs of the peoples of the settlement areas.

Action 4.9.1 Develop a forest management plan for management of forest resources in the Gwich'in Settlement Area
Timeline: June 2009



5.0 PROTECT TERRITORIAL WATERS

NWT residents value clean and plentiful water as a mainstay to their well-being. The quality and quantity of water resources and the health of aquatic ecosystems are of growing concern as pressures increase within the NWT and elsewhere. For these reasons, the GNWT has made protecting territorial waters a priority.

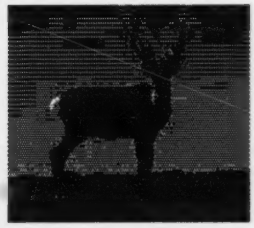
The GNWT is leading an initiative, in partnership with the federal and Aboriginal governments, to ensure that all who have roles to play in water resources management can work together. A NWT water resources management strategy, being developed in 2008-2009, will serve as a basis to define specific roles and commitments for the future.

Primarily, ENR undertakes initiatives to help protect public water supplies, maintain healthy aquatic ecosystems for a robust traditional economy and manage transboundary waters effectively.

Information on water resources is important to all water managers. While scientific water monitoring data from the federal government generally suggest overall water quality is good, residents repeatedly voice concerns about changes they have observed. The partners will work together to develop aquatic ecosystem indicators that, if monitored over time, show changes to aquatic ecosystem health and can signal problems from development and climate change and help identify ways to avoid or lessen adverse impacts.

It is important that public water supplies are protected to avoid costs of additional treatment. Community watersheds are a particular area of concern. ENR works with Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), Health and Social Services (HSS) and Public Works and Services (PWS) to implement a multi-barrier approach that can be used to ensure clean drinking water for NWT residents. This approach is outlined in the GNWT's *Managing Drinking Water Quality in the Northwest Territories: A Preventative Framework and Strategy*. GNWT departments collaborate with community governments and other agencies to protect source water, train and support water treatment plant operators, and educate and engage the public on water management issues.

All of us contribute to a polluting effluent known as municipal wastewater effluent or sewage from our communities. Particular contaminants in wastewater can damage human health or the environment. Nationally, under the auspices of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME), jurisdictions prepared a Canada-wide Strategy (CWS) for Municipal Wastewater Effluent. This strategy will set limits on certain pollutants, identify ways to monitor these pollutants in the environment and make changes to what is released, if necessary. In the NWT, land and water boards set such limits on a case-by-case basis. During the next five years, research will be carried out with respect to the risks posed by effluent and northern options for treatment. This research will be carried out through a Northern Research Working Group, co-led by Environment Canada and INAC.



The Mackenzie River Basin (MRB) is the largest freshwater river basin in Canada. Our actions, as well as our upstream neighbours' actions, are important. Increased pressure is being placed on water resources in the Basin from rapidly developing upstream energy projects, such as oil sands and hydroelectricity, as well as climate change throughout the Basin. The MRB Transboundary Waters Master Agreement, signed in 1997, states that each member Party can manage the use of water resources within its own jurisdiction provided such use does not unreasonably harm the Basin's aquatic ecosystems. This Agreement sets out principles that MRB Board jurisdictions (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Yukon and the NWT) shall follow for managing water resources in the MRB. The Agreement also requires the Board to complete periodic State of the Aquatic Ecosystem reports and set up water management bilateral agreements among neighbouring jurisdictions. Currently, consideration is being given to advancing multilateral agreements as a more inclusive means of protecting specific watersheds. The final NWT water resources management strategy will serve as a basis for these negotiations and should result in clearly laid-out and agreed upon roles and responsibilities and water management instruments, monitoring and research, which will serve all parties' needs to the extent possible.

Action 5.0.1 Compile NWT transboundary water data for use in future transboundary agreement negotiations, based upon concerns and issues identified.
Timeline: December 2009

Action 5.0.2 Engage Aboriginal governments, land and water boards and others to develop a draft NWT water resources management strategy to address concerns and issues.
Timeline: June 2010

Action 5.0.3 Work with interested parties to identify appropriate aquatic ecosystem approaches, including indicators that will help in monitoring NWT values at risk.
Timeline: December 2010

Action 5.0.4 Complete transboundary waters agreements negotiations for Peace-Athabasca-Slave watersheds (AB-NWT primary).
Timeline: December 2011

Action 5.0.5 Work with the federal government, land and water boards, communities and others to develop an implementation plan and inter-jurisdictional agreement, and implement the endorsed CWS for MWWE.
Timeline: March 2012

Action 5.0.6 Develop effective resources, management and assessment tools, like catchment area maps, to help NWT communities manage risk to watersheds that are the source for public water supplies.
Timeline: June 2012

Action 5.0.7 Complete transboundary waters agreements negotiations for Hay and Great Slave watersheds.
Timeline: December 2012

Appendix A –
Summary of Initiatives, Actions, Deliverables and Timelines

1. Governance

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline
1.1 Consultation Framework for ENR	*1.1.1 Develop a consultation framework for ENR based on the GNWT's Approach to Consultation with Aboriginal Governments and Organizations*	ENR Consultation Framework	June 2009
1.2 Land Use Policy Framework	*1.2.1 Report progress on ENR's participation in collaborative initiatives related to a land use framework, including landscape management activities and regional land use planning.*	Progress reports	June 2009 and then biannually
1.3 NWT Protected Areas Strategy	*1.3.1 Develop a preliminary map of important wildlife areas in the NWT.*	Preliminary map of important wildlife areas in the NWT	December 2009
	1.3.2 Prepare a Three-year PAS Action Plan for 2010-2013.	Three-year PAS Action Plan: 2010-2013	March 2010
	1.3.3 Work with Nunavut to implement the Thelon Management Plan.	Implementation plan and status report	March 2010
	1.3.4 Use ENR legislation, such as Critical Wildlife Areas, to sponsor candidate sites.	Candidate site(s) process underway using ENR legislation	December 2011
1.4 Managing Landscape Change	*1.4.1 In partnership with industry and Aboriginal organizations and boards, identify management actions to reduce and mitigate impacts on boreal caribou and their habitat from resource development.*	Action plan and status report	December 2009
	1.4.2 Report on ESF and CIMP progress.	Progress report	December 2009 and then annually
1.5 NWT Science Agenda	*1.5.1 Identify ENR research needs and research priorities.*	Annual action plan and status report	June 2009 and then annually
	1.5.2 Work with other GNWT departments to prepare a GNWT Science Agenda.	GNWT Science Agenda	September 2009
1.6 ENR Succession Planning	*1.6.1 Work with the Department of Human Resources to develop a Succession Plan.*	Succession Plan	December 2010

2. Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Alternative Energy

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline
2.1 Energy and Climate Change	*2.1.1 Work with energy partners to prepare detailed plans for action on enhancing use of alternative energy sources (biomass, geothermal, wind).*	Alternative energy action plan(s) and status report(s)	December 2009
	2.1.2 Support actions identified in the NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy and report progress annually.	Progress report	April 2009 and then annually
	2.1.3 Support NWT residents, businesses and communities to reduce energy consumption and implement alternative energy solutions.	Support program	April 2009 and then annually
	2.1.4 Work with energy partners to install wind turbines in Tuktoyaktuk.	Installation of wind turbines in Tuktoyaktuk	July 2011
2.2 Climate Change Adaptation	*2.2.1 Prepare and release a climate change impacts and adaptation plan developed in consultation with affected departments.*	Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Plan	December 2009
2.3 New Climate Change Network	*2.3.1 Provide communication and coordination support to organizations involved in greenhouse gas mitigation and climate change adaptation.*	Establishment of organizational support	September 2009

3. Environmental Knowledge

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline
3.1 Classifying and Mapping Ecosystems	*3.1.1 Complete and publish ecological land classification for the Taiga Shield Ecozone.*	Ecozone classification map and descriptors	March 2009
	3.1.2 Complete and publish ecological land classification for the Cordillera Ecozone.	Ecozone classification map and descriptors	September 2009
	3.1.3 Complete and publish ecological land classification for the Southern and High Arctic Ecozones.	Ecozone classifications map and descriptors	September 2011
3.2 Gathering Baseline Information and Monitoring Cumulative Effects	*3.2.1 Expand the existing air quality network into small NWT communities.*	Network expanded and operational	June 2009
	3.2.2 Review available baseline data on wildlife and vegetation, and develop a plan to address data gaps to ensure cumulative impacts and landscape change are well monitored and assessed.	Action plan to address data gaps	December 2009
	3.2.3 Implement programs through the Western NWT Biophysical Study to address gaps in baseline data and information, and enhance monitoring of cumulative impact indicators.	Implementation of program(s); status report	December 2010
3.3 Building a Forest Management Information System	*3.3.1 Design and develop a Wildfire Management application (EMBER Module).*	Wildfire Management (EMBER) Application	September 2009
3.4 Environmental Assessment Tracking System (EATS)	*3.4.1 Design, build and implement the EATS system to better manage the GNWT's environmental assessment processes and associated information management library.*	Environmental Assessment Tracking System operational	June 2009
3.5 Compliance Database	*3.5.1 Design, build and implement the Compliance Database to accommodate wildlife permits, resource harvesting permits, enhanced vendor return data entry, license editing capability and associated audit trail, additional reporting requirements and enhanced security.*	Compliance Database operational	June 2010
3.6 Reporting on the Northwest Territories "State of the Environment"	*3.6.1 Develop a "State of the Environment" report on the NWT environment, focusing on its air, wildlife and forests.*	NWT State of the Environment Report	June 2009
3.7 Traditional Knowledge Policy Implementation	*3.7.1 Work with Aboriginal governments and partners, including communities and regional resource management agencies, to support the implementation of the ENR TKIF through a formal process of discussions and report on findings.*	Implementation plan and status report	March 2009
	3.7.2 Develop and implement protocols with regional Aboriginal governments and agencies to access and share TK.	Protocols for information access and sharing	June 2012
	3.7.3 Work with the GNWT Interdepartmental TK Working Group to develop a plan for government-wide implementation of TK Policy.	Implementation plan	September 2012

4. Environmental Stewardship

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timelines
4.1 Past Environmental Legacies	*4.1.1 Work with the federal government to develop and implement a comprehensive plan for managing contaminated soil along the Northern Transportation Route.*	NTR contaminated soil management plan	December 2009
	4.1.2 Report progress on implementation of the approved closure and reclamation plan by Miramar Con Mine Ltd.	Progress report(s)	Ongoing until remediation of site is complete and continued site monitoring
	4.1.3 Support the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) processes to complete the Environmental Assessment for Giant Mine's remediation in partnership with the Giant Mine Remediation Team.	N/A	December 2009
	4.1.4 Address recommendations resulting from the review of the Giant Mine Remediation Plan and begin remediation of the Giant Mine site.	N/A	September 2010 (begin remediation)
4.2 Waste Recovery Programs	*4.2.1 Introduce a Paper Products Diversion Initiative to provide financial support for NWT businesses, municipalities and environmental groups to investigate and/or pilot creative solutions for diverting paper products from community landfills.*	Paper Products Diversion Initiative status report	June 2009
	4.2.2 Implement actions to reduce the use of single-use retail plastic and paper bags, including introduction of a fee on single-use retail bags.	Environmental fee for single-use retail bags introduced	September 2009
	4.2.3 Add milk containers to the Beverage Container Program.	Updated Beverage Container Program Regulations	June 2009
	4.2.4 Determine the appropriate approach to, and the setting up of, a comprehensive electronics waste recovery program in the NWT.	Discussion Paper	September 2010
4.3 Best Management Practices, Standards and Guidelines	*4.3.1 In collaboration with Environment Canada and INAC, develop NWT-wide Guidelines for Seismic Operations to address the ecological impacts of seismic operations in a proactive manner.*	Guidelines for Seismic Operations in the NWT	March 2009
	4.3.2 Develop "air quality best management practices" for the oil and gas industry, including exploration, preliminary processing and transport.	Air Quality Best Management Practices	December 2009
	4.3.3 Identify additional "best management practice" guidance documents for minerals, oil and gas development and other industrial activities to reduce and mitigate environmental impacts, especially on forests, wildlife and habitat.	Action plan for additional guidance	Summer 2010 and annually
4.4 Managing Shared Wildlife Populations	*4.4.1 Conduct an independent peer review of barren-ground caribou survey methods and outcomes.*	Independent peer review	March 2009
	4.4.2 Develop a Five-year NWT Barren-ground Caribou Management Strategy 2010-2015.	NWT Barren-ground Caribou Management Strategy 2010-2015	June 2010
	4.4.3 Develop agreements with the governments of Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Yukon and Nunavut on the management of shared wildlife populations, including polar bears, barren-ground caribou and boreal caribou.	Bilateral agreements on shared wildlife populations for each jurisdiction	December 2010
4.5 Species at Risk	*4.5.1 Develop a NWT Bison Management Strategy.*	NWT Bison Management Strategy	December 2008
	4.5.2 Develop a NWT Action Plan for Boreal Caribou.	NWT Action Plan for Boreal Caribou	June 2009
	4.5.3 Develop Wood Bison Management Plans for the Liard, Mackenzie and Slave River Lowland populations.	Wood Bison Management Plans for each population	December 2010
	4.5.4 Update the General Status Ranks of Wild Species in the NWT 2011-2015.	Status report	June 2011

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timelines
4.6 Environmental Legislation			
4.6.1 Species at Risk Legislation	*4.6.1.1 Introduce the NWT Species at Risk Act.*	*Species at Risk Act* introduced in Legislative Assembly	December 2008
	4.6.1.2 Implement actions under the NWT Species at Risk Act.	Progress report	June 2010
	4.6.1.3 Sign Bilateral Cooperation Agreement on NWT Species at Risk.	Bilateral Cooperation Agreement	March 2010
4.6.2 A New Wildlife Act	*4.6.2.1 Release a draft Wildlife Act for public consultation.*	Draft NWT *Wildlife Act*	March 2011
	4.6.2.2 Introduce the revised Wildlife Act.	Introduce revised *Wildlife Act* in Legislative Assembly	December 2011
4.6.3 Forest Management Legislation	*4.6.3.1 Identify framework components and major steps for development of new forest and wildlife fire management legislation and policy.*	Forest Management Legislative and Policy Framework	December 2008
	4.6.3.2 Develop draft action plan for new forest and wildland fire management legislation and policy.	Forest Management Legislative and Policy Action Plan	June 2009
	4.6.3.3 Develop and implement regulations that require issuance of an Incidental Timber Harvesting Permit when cutting trees related to an industrial development activity.	Incidental Timber Harvesting Regulations	December 2009
4.7 Maintaining Forest Fire Management Services Program Effectiveness	*4.7.1 Conduct a review of ENR's strategic approach to wildland fire management that includes recommended changes. This will include a review of how the NWT Forest Fire Management Policy is implemented related to values at risk and the need to consider natural resource values such as habitat and needs of migratory species such as caribou.*	Discussion paper	September 2009
	4.7.2 Develop a Forest Fire Management Action Plan to address issues or gaps identified through the aforementioned review.	Forest Fire Management Action Plan	December 2009
4.8 Wildland Fire Management			
4.8.1 Protecting Communities from Forest Fire	*4.8.1.1 Develop FireSmart interface fire management plans for Fort Smith, Kakisa and Tsiigehtchic.*	FireSmart plans for each of Fort Smith, Kakisa and Tsiigehtchic	December 2009
	4.8.1.2 Develop a new inter-jurisdictional multi-year research plan to identify and address research gaps in community protection.	Community protection multi-year research plan	December 2009
4.8.2 Forest Renewal	*4.8.2.1 Prepare a Strategy for Forest Renewal in the NWT to ensure sustainable use of forest resources.*	Strategy for Forest Renewal in the NWT	June 2009
4.9 Managing Forest Resources	*4.9.1 Develop a forest management plan for management of forest resources in the Gwich'in Settlement Region.*	GSR Forest Management Plan	June 2009

5. Protect Territorial Waters

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Timeline
5.0 Protect Territorial Waters	*5.0.1 Compile NWT transboundary water data for use in future transboundary agreement negotiations, based upon concerns and issues identified.*	Technical information report	December 2009
	5.0.2 Engage Aboriginal governments, land and water boards and others to develop a draft NWT water resources management strategy to address concerns and issues.	NWT Water Resources Management Strategy	June 2009
	5.0.3 Work with interested parties to identify appropriate aquatic ecosystem approaches, including indicators that will help in monitoring NWT values at risk.	Aquatic Ecosystem Approach	December 2010
	5.0.4 Complete transboundary waters agreements negotiations for Peace-Athabasca-Slave watersheds (AB-NWT primary)	Bilateral Water Management Agreements	December 2011
	5.0.5 Work with the federal government, land and water boards, communities and others to develop an implementation plan and inter-jurisdictional agreement, and implement the endorsed CWS for MWWE.	Implementation Plan and Inter-jurisdictional Agreement	March 2011
	5.0.6 Develop effective resources, management and assessment tools, like catchment area maps, to help NWT communities manage risk to watersheds that are the source for public water supplies.	Community risk assessment tools	June 2012
	5.0.7 Complete transboundary waters agreements negotiations for Hay and Great Slave watersheds.	Bilateral Water Management Agreements with AB, BC and SK	December 2012